INSIDE THIS WEEK:

BEECH BARK DISEASE

Foresters say disease is here and the prognosis isn't good

AUXILIARY DWINDLING

President of Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary says volunteers needed

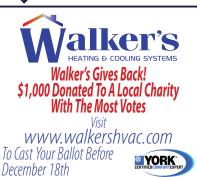
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'New leadership skill sets' needed: HHHS board

Health board confirms CEO no longer with corporation

ANGELICA INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services board of directors has ended its relationship with the organization's CEO and president Varouj Eskedjian.

The decision was announced last week in an official press release issued on Dec.

10, but media had been given confirmation of the change two days earlier.

Acting chairman of the board Dave Bonham said the decision was made by the board in a duly convened board meeting.

ing.
"Because the process is not yet complete I can confirm that Varouj is no longer with HHHS," said Bonham, when asked if the CEO was terminated.

In the release it states that with many important changes now falling into place, the HHHS board will need to look for the next generation of leadership to advance the organization.

"The board deeply appreciates the challenges that are involved in managing in this complex arena and bringing multiple

see FORMER page 3

Music fest hits MTO snag

ANGELICA INGRAM

Staff Reporter

A proposal that involves converting a West Guilford golf course into a venue for music festivals is hitting a snag with the Ministry of Transportation.

The proposal, which was first introduced to Dysart et al council at an October meeting and then further explained at a Nov. 10 meeting, proposes to transform Lakeside Golf Course into a venue to host concerts during the summer months.

The idea is being pitched by music producer Wolfgang Siebert and local community organizer John Teljeur, who were last told by the municipality they would need to submit a rezoning amendment application with approvals from the MTO in order for the project to move forward.

An application has not yet been finalized for the municipality as the pair are waiting on the MTO, said Teljeur in an interview.

"As part of the rezoning application we have to go through a number of steps including contacting the MTO for approval of the commercial entrance," said Teljeur. "Until we can get approval from MTO we can't submit the rezoning. We have everything else basically ready to go."

Teljeur said he and Siebert submit-

see MUSIC page 3



Beech bark disease rolling through county

JENN WATT

Editor

It starts as fluff on the side of a beech tree's smooth grey bark. Pinpricks of white wax dot the tree; sometimes sparsely, other times it nearly covers the trunk. That's the scale insect, digging in – opening up the tree's bark – and is the first step to beech bark disease.

Next comes the fungus. It takes advantage of the tree's vulnerability and once it takes hold, producing red cankers, even the most tall and sturdy tree will eventually fall.

There was a time when foresters weren't sure of the impact beech bark disease would have on the woodlots and wilderness of Ontario. Now they're certain and it's devastating

"It was about four years ago that it was like oh my God. This is really serious. There's no way around this," says professional forester and manager of Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve Malcolm Cockwell.

About 20 per cent of Haliburton Forest's 90,000 acres is beech and according to Cockwell, the disease pushed through the forest unimpeded over the last decade.

By happenstance, the first time he identified beech scale was eight years ago at Haliburton Forest as he was taking a tree marking course.

"That was the first time he [a forester at Haliburton Forest] had noticed it here and it was one of my first times doing professional forestry," he says.

Beech bark disease has been an unstoppable force in North America for the last 100 years. On the East Coast, beech trees look nothing like what Ontarians would identify as a beech. The people of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick would be shocked to see what beech trees look like outside of the gnarled, spindly trees they now have in their province.

Forest manager at Haliburton Forest Pavel Gmuzdek recently returned from a trip to Nova Scotia.

"There is beech there still growing," he says. "The beech there is very scraggly, very ugly."

Cockwell recalls a workshop done in Huntsville in 2013 attended by foresters from the Maritimes. As part of the

event, they were taken on a tour of Algonquin Park.

"All these foresters from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were lining up to take pictures with [beech trees] because they had never seen a beech that looked like a tree," he says.

It now seems clear that will be the case for Haliburton County and the rest of Ontario as well.

Research forester Sylvia Greifenhagen says over the last five years she was watched the disease spread through most of the beech in the province. She works for the Ontario Forest Research Institute of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

"It certainly has spread ... it's spread throughout pretty much all of the range of beech, though there are pockets of beech here and there that haven't been infected," she says. That might just be a matter of time.

There is some disagreement amongst foresters and scientists about whether disease resistant beech trees exist.

"It's hard to know exactly if it's actual resistance or not, but trees that aren't getting the disease, they're very rare," Greifenhagen says. About one to three per cent of the population may be resistant.

"In Michigan and New York State they have found trees that do not get the disease. What they have been doing is propagating those trees in orchards and planting out and seeing how they do," she says.

Health Unit Holiday Hours

The Health Unit office will be closed for the holiday season on: December 24, 25, 28, 31 and January 1.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season from the staff of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District





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Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve is coming to terms with beech bark disease, which appears to be an unstoppable and deadly force. They are finding uses for the trees before they become infected. From left, manager Malcolm Cockwell, German forester Sabine Funk and forestry manager Pavel Gmuzdek walk through forest laden with beech thickets. JENN WATT Staff

"That's one process or method that's being followed and that's what we want to do here as well."

After disease takes over a forest, that's not the end of beech trees, but what is left is a far cry from what once

Beech trees are useful to the ecosystem largely because of the nuts they produce, which feed animals from bears and deer to turkeys and squirrels. If a tree can make it to nut bearing age it will produce nuts, says Greifenhagen.

In New York State they haven't seen a collapse of nut production, but it has been greatly reduced.

"We don't really know exactly how much we will lose

However, unlike the behaviour of other stressed or dying trees that tend to produce more seeds and nuts the more stressed they become, beech trees scale back production as they die, Peter McElwain of Forest Design says.

McElwain is forest technician who has been in the industry for 34 years. He specializes in private land management and has had plenty of conversations with landowners from Parry Sound, Muskoka and Haliburton County about beech bark disease.

It hasn't been hard for him to convince landowners that they need to deal with their beech trees before disease destroys them entirely, he says, because the disease moves so rapidly.

"In this case they see it automatically and recognize something has to be done," he says. "They see it on their own woodlots. It's not the challenge where you have to

convince people to do anything."

If the trees are not harvested before the disease takes hold, they are unusable. They are also dangerous once they are infected, apt to fall apart and snap off unexpect-

"I have clients and landowners that have high recreation use [of their property] that will have a huge liability risk for the danger trees as they're declining," McElwain says, noting hikers, ATVers, snowshoers and skiers all need to make sure the beech trees along their paths are cleared out of the way.

Ron Hamann has 160 acres near Redstone Lake and leads an outing for Hike Haliburton that includes a talk about beech bark disease. He says beech snap can be a huge issue for landowners.

"On a windy day you've got these dead limbs up there that come crashing down," he says.

Hamann is a member of the Ontario Woodlot Associa-

tion and manages his forest with selective logging – the standard for good stewardship.

He intends to remove his beech trees over the next few years so that they can be used for firewood.

"The rest will simply drop and end up as mulch for the



Bright red cankers can be clearly seen on the bark on this beech tree at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve.



I think we're all kind of moving down the road of [thinking] it doesn't have a place here.

> — Malcolm Cockwell Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve

forest bed," he said in an email. "I intend to pursue the wood removal for the Haliburton Heat Bank.'

While the disease is clearly moving on its own mostly spread by wind and animals, the MNRF believes that some pockets can be accounted for when people bring infected firewood to a new location. Greifenhagen says they've done research into when it's safe to transport beech wood from one location to another.

"It's really important that beech wood with scale on it not be moved when the life stage of the insect is a mobile stage. The mobile stage of that scale insect in Ontario is from mid July to mid November. That's the time when wood shouldn't be moved."

Beyond the loss of food for animals, the safety risk and the impact of losing 20 per cent (or more) of a forest's trees, the disease offers another dilemma for foresters.

As a beech tree dies, it sends up suckers from its roots genetically identical trees. Under normal circumstances, the successful of these saplings would grow into new beech trees. Under beech bark disease conditions, they will never become big trees, remaining small and spindly and bushing out into thickets throughout the understorey.

'What we're finding is that by the time these little [trees] get to be two centimetres, three centimetres in diameter, they have scale," says Cockwell.

The thickets shade out other trees, effectively killing them, and taking over the forest.

Recently, Ernie Demuth of the Bancroft Minden Forest Company made a delegation to Haliburton County council detailing how his company is dealing with the thickets.

Controlling them often means scraping the forest floor with a feller-buncher, a logging machine that gathers and chops trees, he said.

At Haliburton Forest, serious conversations are happening about exactly how to deal with the thickets and the beech trees that are still healthy.

Because beech doesn't usually fetch high prices, the Forest has tried to add value by making paddles out of the wood. They've also been harvesting the trees to be used as shoring timbers for the Toronto subway extension.

"I think we're having some spiritual discussions right now about what we're going to do about beech and I think we're all kind of moving down the road of it doesn't have a place here," says Cockwell. "I don't know what else you

There are hard decisions ahead for anyone with a woodlot containing significant beech populations – something Cockwell is preparing for.

"We're all struggling to find something – even if it hurts to do it now – something that means a hundred years from now we'll still have productive forests.'





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Redstone Lake residence destroyed by fire

Nineteen firefighters contained a blaze that claimed a building on Redkenn Drive on Sunday, Dec. 13.

According to Dysart et al fire department, about \$1 million of damage was created by the fire, which had already engulfed the house by the time the firefighters arrived around 11 p.m.

"Efforts were concentrated on a garage and keeping the fire from spreading into the bush," fire chief Miles

Maughan said in the press release.

Firefighters worked for nine hours putting out hotspots at the Redstone Lake property. The fire marshal was called, but will not be investigating the fire.
The cause of the fire is not known. No injuries were

reported and no one was home at the time of the fire.

A chimney is all that is left after a fire destroyed a Redkenn Drive residence late Sunday night. Photo submitted by Ray

Former CEO developed vision for HHHS

from page 1

service providers and cultures together into one new and aligned organization. This is why it has concluded that new leadership skill sets are required to inspire our people to bring the organization to the next level and to lead the important process of building one team and shaping a shared culture at HHHS," it says.

Bonham said the organization was looking for somebody that could build a team of people across the spec-

trum of the corporation.

He also pointed to "gender sensitive engagement" as a direction that HHHS needed to go.

Bonham said he was part of the board when the decision was made and agrees with the board's decision.

When contacted, Eskedjian would not provide a comment on the board's decision.

During his time at the helm of the corporation, Eskedjian oversaw an integration mandated by the Central East Local Health Integration Network that brought organizations such as Community Care Haliburton County and the VON under the umbrella of HHHS services.

In the release the board acknowledges Eskedjian's accomplishments over the past three years and credits the CEO as being instrumental in developing a vision for

"Mr. Eskedjian has also championed the recent integration with our community care partners and service providers," it says. "As Mr. Eskedjian moves on from HHHS, the board acknowledges his significant accomplishments and thanks him for his contributions.

Chief nursing officer and director of hospital services for HHHS Carolyn Plummer was appointed to the position of interim CEO and president on Dec. 8. She has been with the corporation since the end of September.

A member of the HHHS board from 2008 to 2010,

Plummer brings a wide range of experience to the table, including a nursing background, working with health consulting firm Deloitte and most recently with the University Health Network.

The corporation has hired temporary coverage to assist Plummer during the next while, but will be posting for an interim replacement for her position, she said.

While in the role as interim CEO, Plummer is focused on ensuring clients continue to get the best health care

"Our community needs to be able to count on us to continue to meet their health care needs, regardless of the changes that happen here," she said.

"I'm committed to continuing to build on the foundation that's been built here and to bringing the staff together to continue to move forward as a team.

A long-time cottager and recent permanent resident, Plummer said it's too early for her to comment on whether she is considering stepping into the CEO role full time

The board will form a search committee to find a new CEO, said Bonham.

"The process will be as open and transparent as we possibly can make it," he said.

Eskedjian was hired by HHHS in November 2012, replacing former CEO Paul Rosebush, who left to take a position in southwestern Ontario.

Prior to working in Haliburton County, Eskedjian held positions at Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay, and the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care.

Music festival proposal on hold: Teljeur

from page 1

ted detailed plans for the proposal to the ministry and were told the entrance is prohibiting them for moving forward.

The MTO regional issues and media advisor for the Northeast region, Gordan Rennie, said the ministry has not received any notice of rezoning for the property or any application to change the use of the existing commercial entrance.

"The Ministry of Transportation comments on any proposed rezoning or developments on or adjacent to the provincial highway network to ensure the proposed use is not in conflict with highway operations or future plans," wrote Rennie in an email. "Building and land use permits are also required from MTO for any development next to a highway.

Rennie said the ministry's interest in the project mostly involves the main entrance to the property, which is on Highway 118.

The existing highway entrance does not meet ministry requirements for a change of use," he said.
Rennie said the ministry is supportive of economic

development, however, it is the responsibility of a proponent to carry out a traffic impact study, done by a proessional engineer, as well as to finance and construct any needed highway improvements.

Since the existing highway entrance for the golf course loes not meet ministry requirements for the proposed music venue, Rennie said a proponent looking to redevelop this site would need to seek access from another

When asked if the same would apply if the proponent sought a temporary permit to host a music festival instead of rezoning amendment, Rennie replied "the existing entrance is valid for the golf course only."

When notified of this, Teljeur said a letter was sent back asking whether there were plans to change the speed of the highway in the near future and if this would make the existing entrance more suitable.

"We also asked them if there are future plans to pave

the shoulders of that highway and if so when, and would that make any difference to our application," said Teljeur. The pair have yet to receive a response from the MTO

regarding these questions.

'At the end of the day they hold all the cards," said Teljeur. "If they deem the entrance is not suitable for this purpose then there's not a whole lot we can do unless they're willing to help us in some way, which so far I

haven't any indication that's the case."

Teljeur said the pair also mentioned bringing in paid OPP officers to assist with the event, in the hopes it would make a difference with the issue of the entrance.

Teljeur said it's been a frustrating process dealing with the ministry and that at this point the proposal is on hold. He said he doesn't understand why, if the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport recognizes festivals/ events as a way to stimulate a community's economy, the MTO does not work with communities and their counterpart to facilitate these types of events.

"We're trying to do something to bring an event into the area for three weekends ... probably two," he said.

Teljeur prepared a sample economic impact study with the help of the ministry of tourism based on the festival attracting 12,000 people. The report estimates the festival would result in more than \$3.3 million in spending in the county, on areas such as accommodation, public transportation and clothing retail.

Although he really wants to get the rezoning applica-tion in to Dysart, Teljeur said they are in a waiting period

now.
"We haven't really got a lot of wiggle room on this,"

"TOI there's no he said. "Without that [approval from MTO] there's no way to move ahead on the rezoning because technically speaking we would not be allowed to use that commercial entrance. In essence we'd be marooned from using that property.

Teljeur said they aren't considering using the Irish Line as an entrance; it was only offered for emergency purposes and nothing else.

At this point he is getting frustrated with the ministry and their lack of assistance.

"The reality is on one hand the different levels of government, specifically anything above a municipality, they're not quick to help us out. I think everybody realizes this area is depressed economically and instead of trying to come up with some ways to make some of these things work, not just for this event but for other business that have been caught in the spiderweb too ... it doesn't seem like we have partners on the other side.

If a rezoning amendment application is made to the municipality, the proposal would go through a planning process that is open to comments from members of the

"It's disappointing, we're going to keep pushing at every avenue we have," he said. "At the end of the day this might cost us the whole thing."

Auxiliary in dire need of helpers

ANGELICA INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Tracey Lear is frightful of what the future holds for the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary.

President for almost four years, Lear doesn't have enough fingers on her two hands to count how many executive members the organization is going to lose

The volunteer got involved with the organization after she moved up to the area permanently in 2009.

"You know when you first start and they say oh somebody young, you think this is great," she jokes. "But then that's the problem ... you're the youngster ... [the others] have held these positions, they've done these fundraisers for years and years and years and it's time for someone else to step up, but there's no someone."

Lear remembers when her mother used to be a hospital volunteer, which inspired her to get involved in her community.

Growing up, Lear didn't think much of it, but following her mother's passing she began to go through her belongings and realized what a significant impact the volunteering had.

"You think ... that's what Mom does, she goes and volunteers, isn't that cute,' said Lear. "Then after my mom passed away in January 2009, you know you're tidying up stuff and I've got her little jacket and I've got her volunteer of the year award and then you think that was a big deal and I should have paid more

It was not long after this realization Lear decided to get involved with the local auxiliary

At this time the Haliburton auxiliary

has 62 members, but more are welcome and needed. The organization is open to

three executive meetings held a year and eight general membership meetings a year, said Lear.

Executive members are required to step down after finishing their terms, as mandated by the auxiliary's bylaws, which are overseen by a provincial association of auxiliaries.

The group raises funds to purchase hos-

There are many positive aspects to being involved with the auxiliary, includ-

ing social benefits.

"When you're 75 or 80 years old it's a social thing," says Lear. "So you come every first Wednesday of the month and you see your friends."

And most importantly, it's fun, says

The president says she understands how volunteers can get overworked and tired, as she finds it's often the same people offering their time and help to multiple organizations.

She hopes some fresh faces join the auxiliary in the next few years, challenging

youth and young people to get involved.
"I'm hopeful there is a group that will step up," she said.

The president says all skill sets and talents are welcome, doesn't matter what vour forte is.

Items the organization has purchased over the years include a steamer for food services, equipment for the ER and items

both women and men of any age.

The time commitment is very low, with

pital equipment through multiple events and initiatives such as the popular Italian dinner and silent auction hosted in October, the wheelbarrow of wine draw, a quilt raffle, Tag Day and the Geranium Tea. They also oversee the gift shop located within the hospital.

for the long-term care facilities.

Lear lists pressure mattresses and chairs and a slit lamp as just a few of the things they have recently fundraised for.

The president stresses there is no overhead costs for the auxiliary and every dollar donated goes straight towards pur-

"Last year it was \$68,000 of equipment

that we purchased. The year before was \$92,000 of equipment. This year we've committed to spend \$65,000," she said. "But we just can't do it and what happens if we can't? If we don't have the people that are going to step up to do that?"

Those interested in joining the auxiliary

can contact Lear at 705-457-4032.



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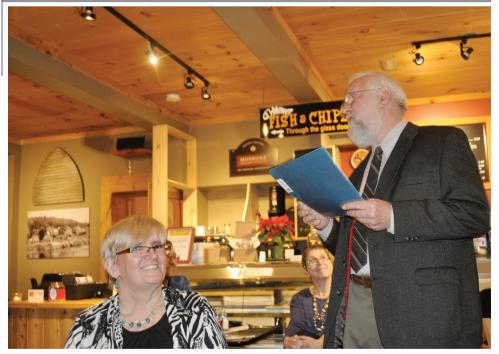
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Robertson Davies continues to inspire

Local resident Jack Brezina, acts out a monologue in the character of Robertson Davies at a Haliburton County Public Library event on Dec. 6 at Baked and Battered in Haliburton. The "friendraiser" was part of the One Book One Community initiative and marked the last event of the library's 50th anniversary celebrations, held throughout the year. Davies's book Fifth Business was the winner of this year's Haliburton County Reads series, hosted on Canoe FM this past summer. The book was written in 1970, and the library event was held on the week marking the 20th anniversary of Davies's death. Money collected at the event is going towards funding computer equipment. Aside for the re-enactment, the evening including a three-course dinner and a live musical performance from local band Fifth Business. ANGELICA



Brezina acts out a monologue in the character of Robertson Davies at a Haliburton County Public Library event on Dec. 6 at Baked and Battered in Haliburton.

Dysart signs agreement with Bell to improve cell service

ANGELICA INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Dec. 14 meeting of Dysart et

In an effort to improve network capacity for cell service, the municipality has signed a master services agreement with Bell to bring small cell systems to the area.

The agreement would focus on concentrated areas where there is a demand for cell service and improve that, said Adam Fulford, director of field services for Can-Acre, who is working on behalf of Bell.

The approach would have the company

work with the municipality and use their infrastructure to place small units on, said

Currently the demand is exceeding the capacity and a small cell system is a different approach to a cell tower or other

The unit can be painted and concealed, with locations chosen based on areas currently in demand. For Haliburton, the locations would mostly be within the downtown core.

The units would improve uploading and downloading for wireless data for Bell and its affiliates, which include Telus, Virgin, Koodo and others.

Several of these units currently exist at the Minden Wild Water Preserve, where they were installed to assist with capacity during the Pan Am Games this past sum-

In order to move forward, the municipality would need to enter into a master services licence agreement with Bell. The agreement would give the municipality authority for location/site approvals and bind them to a 20-year term.

Costs incurred by the units would be paid for by Bell.

Councillors passed a bylaw to enter into a small cell master licence agreement with Bell Mobility.

JDHES students urge council to join Blue Dot movement

Environment Haliburton had a little help from students at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School to convince councillors of the importance of a right to a healthy environment.

Carolynn Coburn and Heather Ross brought in a group of students in grades everyone should have the right to clean air, drinking water and a healthy environ-

Environment Haliburton has been visiting with each area municipality in the hopes they will each sign a resolution in support of the Blue Dot movement, which is being spearheaded by the David Suzuki Foundation.

To date both Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East have supported it.

Councillor Derek Knowles questioned the constitutional amendment aspect of the movement and said he had a problem

"As a citizen I feel I have those rights today," he said.

Coburn said as a resident of Ontario you may feel this way, however the amendment would apply to the entire

Councillors thanked the students for coming in and speaking so eloquently and passionately.

A resolution in support of Blue Dot was not brought forth by council.

Council approves MTO to use patrol yard during winter months

Councillors have approved a letter of understanding with the Ministry of Transportation allowing them to use the municipal patrol yard during the winter months for Carillion, the company contracted by the province to do snow removal.

The partnership would allow Carillion to put a truck in the patrol yard in Dysart, making a huge difference in terms of response times for Dover's Hill, approximately four kilometres from the yard, said public works director Brian Nicholson.

As of right now, the snow removal trucks are stationed in Minden.

"It's all positive for us," said Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey. "It's all about

Municipality looking at building addition

Chief administrative officer Tamara Wilbee is looking at bringing information forward regarding building onto the

municipal building.
Fearrey said it's time to start planning for the future and that space was very limited at the current facility.

Rezoning amendment for **Living Libations building** approved

Plans to build a new facility for successful online business Living Libations are moving forward.

Council approved a rezoning amendment and site plan agreement for the property off of Harburn Road where the business is slated to be located next spring, following construction.

Currently zoned rural, the proposed property is being rezoned highway commercial. A public meeting regarding the rezoning will be held on Feb. 1.

The zone for the building site will be limited to a five acre site on the lot, according to municipal planner Pat Martin's report. "The business is considered to be an agricultural related business and so, the proposal is generally consistent with provincial policy and conforms to the provisions of the Dysart official plan," wrote Martin in her report.



Time Travellers give to auxiliary

The Haliburton and Minden auxiliaries benefited from the 50/50 draw of the Time Travellers Car Club. The Time Travellers hold draws each week at their get-togethers and at their Canada Day event in MInden. The Time Travellers have raised money for the auxiliaries for years. This year, they presented \$800 to each auxiliary. At front, Tracey Lear of the Haliburton auxiliary and John Fortune of the Minden auxiliary. Photo submitted



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Reflections of the season

by Darren Lum

Real Christmas stories

TIDS SAY THE MOST hilari- order to ensure he is warm for ous things. They also say the most heartening and enlightened things, too.

It's always fun each year to leaf through the stack of stories, wish lists and drawings made by students at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden and Stuart Baker Elementary School in Haliburton to see what magical worlds they will create. You can find them in the Season's Greetings section of this week's paper.

In many stories, Santa has a problem saying no to cookies and sweets. Rudolf gets lost a few times (once he ends up in the aisles of Foodland). A yeti takes on the traditional role of the elf and makes toys for kids. A gingerbread girl finds a snowsuit so she won't disintegrate in the snow.

Reading the letters brings you back to a time when Christmas was a mysterious tradition filled with delicious treats, exciting gifts and worlds of quirky characters.

Through these fantasy scenarios, the kids letters are also a window into how they perceive the holiday and what kinds of actions Christmas inspires.

These stories cover the gamut from friendship, kindness, charity, peacemaking, humour, redemption and love.

One girl writes about making a sweater for her friend, Mr. Mouse. She knits for days in

Christmas.

In another, a boy imagines himself as the Grinch, greedy for presents. After stealing all the presents from the kids of Whoville, he is caught by Santa and repents. He gives back the gifts, even as he knows that means he will have none. What does Santa do? He forgives the Grinch and gives him a present – the first he had ever received.

A girl from ASES writes her

story from the point of view of a kitten who wants to make sure she has cookies to give Santa. Problem is, as a cat, she is not tall enough to reach the cookies at the grocery store. Solution? She asks Santa for cookies for Christmas. That way

Sometimes we get caught up lamenting

the commercialism of the holiday and how fixated kids can get on expensive gifts. (And we have plenty of iPhone references on the wish lists in this week's edition.) But what these stories and drawings also show is that the kids are well aware of the meaning behind the festivities.

They see Christmas as a time for toys, but also a time to make cookies with grandparents, give gifts to neighbours, decorate the tree with friends and have a lot

Part time crusaders

Tales from

Lynda

Shadbolt

the great

OME ARTICLES I LOOK FOR. Others come to me and stay ✓ in my head until I write them down and push send on my email. This story is one of those.

It all starts in my last article where I was running around town with my poster fairy wings on. I was full of appreciation for people who volunteer to make so many events and opportunities happen in this community. So many peo-

ple work so hard all year long. My last stop for the day was to drop some posters off at the home of Betty and David

It was only 4 p.m. but it was one of the grey, dark, foggy November afternoons. I arrived at David and Betty's to find them sitting in their living room surrounded by candle light, drinking a glass of wine and enjoying looking at

their magnificent Christmas tree that they had just put the lights on. This tree was perfect and it looked so magical all lit up. I felt like my heart grew 10 times because here were these two lovely people who volunteer and work so hard for our community in so many ways taking the time to be so good to themselves. I know some of their volunteer commitments are with the Lions Club, the Highlands Summer Festival, The Nutcracker and I know they both read at Stuart Baker Elementary School. They work so hard for our community and it warmed my heart to see them tak-

Edward Abbey, a famous American author once wrote "One final paragraph of advice: do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am – a reluctant enthusiast ... a part-time cru-

ing such good care of each other.

sader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it's

still here."

A few days later I attended the Highland Festival Singers Christmas concert at the United Church. It is such a beautiful evening of music. At the end of the evening the choir surrounds the audience and sings Hallelujah. The choir moved into place and lo and behold Betty Mills is standing right beside me. She was so beautiful. And I watched David who

sat a few pews behind me in the audience get up and walk over to stand beside her and sing. And my friends and I could hear their lovely voices as they sang. Little tiny gestures of love and support make such a big difference all year long and especially at this time of year. As you move through your Christmas and New Year's traditions and celebrations I hope that you take the time to do the little things that make people feel loved and special and appreciated. A kind word, a hug, a smile or time to listen and be together. These are the greatest gifts. Merry Christmas everyone.



1enn watt



she can share them.

The kids have it right and it's all there in their stories.

Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

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points of view

The Walking Dead

ARK TWAIN ONCE FAMOUSLY SAID, "The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated." Now, for the first time ever, I am able say the exact

You see, on Saturday night, Jenn received a text-message from reporter Chad Ingram. He asked her if everything was all right.

When Jenn asked why, Chad told her someone just texted him to inquire whether there was any truth to the rumour I had recently died.

Of course, Jenn knew there was no truth to this, but it didn't help that I was slumped over and sound asleep at my computer desk when she walked over to tell me about it either.

Between you and me, this is the first time anyone has ever reported I died while not on stage.

And while it is startling, I will concede this is probably an easy mistake to make. For instance, if the originator of the rumour ran into me before my first cup of coffee, or in a bank line up or doing any math-related problem, the mix up would have been completely understandable.



steve

galea

Having said this, I'm also just a little disappointed. Call me a dreamer, but I expect the rumour mill to do a whole lot better than this.

First off, there was no really interesting story accompanying the rumour regarding how I died. In fact, it was left to the recipient of the rumour to fill in the blanks – and that just opens me up to a lot of short

("I heard he got run over by a lawn mower.")

I'm not saying I want this rumour to ever surface again. But if it does, I'd like the person starting it to add a

few more unlikely details to the story.

You might say you heard I died on the operating table while getting a brain reduction, for instance. When pressed for more, you could add, "The Mensa society said his IQ exceeded its maximum standard for admission and Steve really wanted in..."

If you'd prefer something a little more believable, you could always go with the story that I died after singlehandedly wiping out ISIS headquarters in a bare-knuckled boxing match. Tell them I was the only one who went by the Marquis of Queensbury rules too. And would it hurt to mention the Victoria Cross I was awarded?

Alas, the person who texted our friend was reasonable and, in fact, quite responsible in that she actually went out of her way to confirm the rumour before spreading it. Thanks a lot.

I suspect this is why I was the only one who attended the candlelight vigil outside the newspaper office on Saturday night. Do you know how sad that is?

Needless to say, I am happy with the situation otherwise. And Jenn is clearly relieved too.

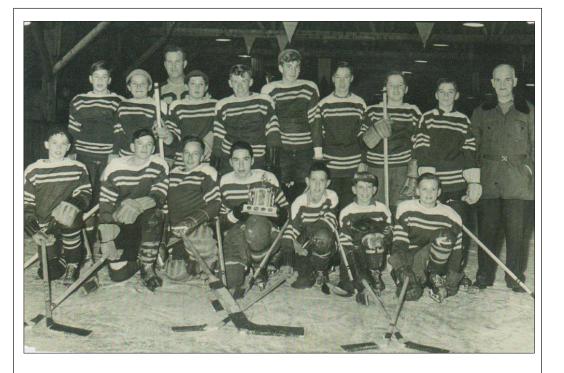
Right after we had a good laugh about it, she said something I'll always remember. She hugged me, then looked me straight in the eyes and said, "Thank goodness this isn't true. I can't imagine what I'd do without you. Do you know how hard it would be to get a new columnist who works for so cheap?"

My daughter was also thankful. She said, "Dad, this has caused me to think about the important things I keep forgetting to say to you. So here it goes. Daddy, I need \$80 for Monday."

So, in any case, if you see me going about my business in town, do not be shocked that I walk among you or disappointed either. I'm very much alive. I'm still here at this computer, doing what I do best. And after I wake up from my nap, I write columns too -

I intend, like we all do, to live a long and prosperous life. The world is such a great place. There are so many things to see. There is so much left to do.

I don't know if you've heard, but next week I'm going to start honing my skills at bare-knuckled boxing...



pic of the past

1955/56 Gene Broughton and George Constable managed this Peewee team at Wilberforce. Back row: He recalled twins from Highland Grove, Casey and Clappo. Front row: Mathers was the only name he recalled. Hockey was alive and well in Wilberforce. I recognized most of these names as I grew up in Wilberforce, being a daughter of Wm Young." Submitted by Aileen Broughton

letters to the editor

The luck of the chimney sweep

To the Editor,

In European tradition a chimney sweep is considered lucky. In Great Britain some chimney sweeps offer the service of attending weddings, decked out in full regalia. Dusty suit and sooty faced, because it is understood that a sweep brings good luck to the union. I believe the origin of the myth is simply that a knowledgeable sweep as a daily routine keeps bad things from happening to good people by servicing their wood burning systems and even pointing the way to better burning with their tips and tricks. Then, there's last week. One of our technicians, Matt Neville, was replacing a brick in a wood stove at the request of a customer on Kenni-

sis Lake Rd. To get a brick to fit it is necessary to vacuum out the cracks between the bricks. While doing so he noticed something gleaming in a crevice (how he did not suck it up in the vacuum I will never know.) It was a Gaelic Trinity ring The home owner Ellen T. was absolutely thrilled when Matt presented it to her. It had gone missing over a year ago and held great sentimental value. She said she had searched and searched everywhere to find it. She had been visiting a friend at the hospital and even returned to look there

A day at the jewellers for a little polishing and the ring will be right back where it belongs.

Ian Myers



Scratching our heads

To the Editor,

We look to our municipal government and elected officials to make and enact decisions that are in the best interest of our community. For some time now, throngs of folks have been attempting to access businesses and health services on Highland Street by crossing at the main entrance of the municipal lot by the docks. We've witnessed fender-benders, near-collisions with pedestrians, and even people attempting to direct traffic in an effort to secure safe passage across the busy road. For families with children, the elderly, or for folks with mobility issues - for whom this

spot is the only viable "exit" from the lot - this is

We've informed the town of this, as have many of our customers; the BIA had promised to take up the cause; some politicians even made election promises... and yet, it would seem a costly "traffic study" that failed to observe pedestrian traffic at this trouble-spot, nor consult businesses and residents in the area, has suggested that the best place for a crosswalk would be the corner of Highland and York. While there may be issues at that intersection, a larger number of pedestrians cross, and will continue to cross, the road at the main lot

see TOWN page 9







Wilberforce welcomes Santa



Clockwise, from top left, Santa waves to the hundreds who lined the street for the Wilberforce Santa Claus Parade on Sunday, Dec.13; two-year-old Amelia Rowden of Minden receives a hug from Santa during the meet and greet with photo following the parade; a child waves to Santa in the parade; and the Royal Canadian Legion members march in the parade.

The parade was followed by the party at the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce. Sponsored by the Highlands East Ward 4 Volunteer Fire Department and the Santa Fund Committee, the event drew hundreds of people for Christmas cheer, a meet and greet with Santa, including gifts and photos with Santa for the children. The community event was made possible because of private donations, the business community, toy donations for the raffle from McKecks Bar and Grill, the Tory Hill Pastoral Charge, local photographer Tammy Donaldson, the Township of Highlands East, Dan Linkert and more than 20 volunteers. See more photos in County Life./DARREN LUM Staff Photos



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Town got this wrong

from page 7

entrance in front of the docks.

We're left scratching our heads that our municipality has decided that this is the best place to put a crossing! Given that the town has been informed several times of the situation, it would stand to reason it will be the town that will be held liable when someone is seriously injured at this spot. Why wouldn't the municipality reduce their

liability by ensuring the safe passage of pedestrians here? In our opinion, the municipality has gotten this one wrong: Study or no study, the crossing is in the wrong place.

Colby Marcellus Craig Gordon Baked & Battered: Cottage Bakery & Fish Fry

Help **Equip Our Emergency** epartments

Believe in the Magic of Giving!

As of December 14, 2015 The Believe In the Magic of Giving campaign

has raised \$50,000 for the Haliburton and Minden Emergency Departments.

Thank you to the following generous businesses, groups and individuals:

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Special Person

..Larry Boxall Gloria Édwards

The following donors wished to make their donation to honour and celebrate the life of someone special.

Best wishes to HHHS

To the Editor,

Thank you Mr. Gollab for your clarification - Tis' the season to be grateful – so we are grateful to be on the "nice to have" list for staff funding. Yes it would be nice to have.

Best wishes in 2016 as HHHS proceeds with the "need to have" clinical information system. Technology advances so fast - who knows perhaps in the future we might expect R2D2 (Star Wars) to come to our assistance when we need help.

Seriously, I do want to thank the doctors, nurses and staff at the Haliburton clinic and hospital for their dedication and care. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Joan Cameron Haliburton

The following is a submission that we weren't able to get into Season's Greetings, but we want Père Noël to read nonetheless.

Cher Père Noël, Comment ça va? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il neige chez

vous? Je m'appelle Sophia. J'ai neuf ans. L'année dernière tu a donné a moi une bicyclette, merci beaucoup. Mais, cette année je voulais une guitare. Merci père Noël joyeux Noël et bonne année!

Sophia

'Nowhere' campaign successful, OHTO says

The Ontario Highlands Tourism Organization's "Welcome to Nowhere" promotional campaign for the regional tourism area encompassing Haliburton County, Hastings and municipalities throughout the Ottawa Valley was a success, according to OHTO's executive

Nicole Whiting visited councillors on the county's tourism committee during a Dec. 9 committee meeting.

'Our message resounded with our audience," said Whiting.

The campaign, aimed at urban audiences tired of the congested hustle and bustle of city living, promoted the idea of escaping to 'nowhere," and encouraged using the hashtag #NowhereMoment on Twitter to promote experiences enjoyed in the Haliburton Highlands and other areas that comprise

Locally, there was significant backlash against the concept, with residents saying they found it insult-

ing.
It was poorly received in some neighbouring communities as well.

There were those that loved it, there were those who hated it,' Whiting said, adding though that

"tourism became a topic of conversation," which she considered positive.

OHTO is practising what is known as experiential tourism promotion, focusing on providing visitors with an unique experience – and accompanying emotions – rather than the promotion of specific features or destinations.

OHTO did a workshop in Haliburton County this year, helping business owners to become more "experiential."

Locally, Haliburton County tourism director Amanda Virtanen told councillors she intends to continue with the county's "Unwind Local"

Based on the popular "buy local" and "shop local," trends, that campaign too has been met with mixed reaction, some county residents abhorring its intentionally poor

The slogan, "just grates every last nerve in my body," Highlands East Deputy-reeve Suzanne Partridge

"And I love it, so there you go," Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin quickly countered.

- Chad Ingram

OPP report break-ins

ton Highlands detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police are investigating five break and enters to seasonal residences in the areas of Wilson Heights Trail and Hodgson Road in Dysart et al.

The break-ins occurred between Dec. 1 and 2. Some of the stolen items include a wakeboard, a Stinger 3G compound bow, a BB gun and a

Anyone with information regarding the person(s) responsible for these crimes or any others is asked to contact the Haliburton Highlands OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Anonymous information can also be reported to Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at www.khcs.

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Special Thanks Moose 93.5 FM & Canoe 100.9 FM Stay tuned for weekly updates.



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Central Food Network formed to address food insecurity

Wilberforce Food Bank creates new organization to oversee programs

The Wilberforce Food Bank has rebranded itself as the Central Food Network – an organization dedicated to networking with community partners to provide more food opportunities for those who are food insecure.

While the CFN will be based out of Wilberforce, its mandate to network with partners will encompass all of Haliburton County.

The organization is already busy completing the new food hub in Wilberforce and assisting in the reopening the new food bank in Cardiff.

"The issue of food insecurity isn't a lack of food,"

says CFN president John Teljeur.
"The food is out there. We just need to come up with creative ways to acquire, store and distribute it to those that need it."

The new food hub, located at the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce, is a key part of the organization's

When it opens in the New Year, the hub will be able to store significant amounts of fresh, frozen and dry goods for its clients and Haliburton County partners.

It also intends to be a partner in using the building's adjoining kitchen and meeting facilities to develop community programs that teach people various food related

Plans are also underway to develop a communications network with other Haliburton County organizations that would benefit from the opportunity to bulk buy or accept free food opportunities when available.

For more information on the Central Food Network, please contact John Teljeur at 705-457-5087 ext 4258 or by email at john.teljeur@gmail.com.

Submitted



The food is out there. We just need to come up with creative ways to acquire, store and distribute it to those that need it.

> — John Teljeur CFN president

Men's Shopping Night









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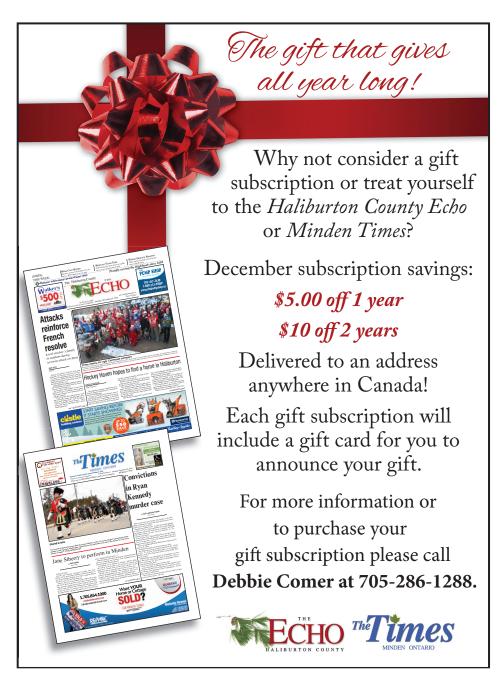


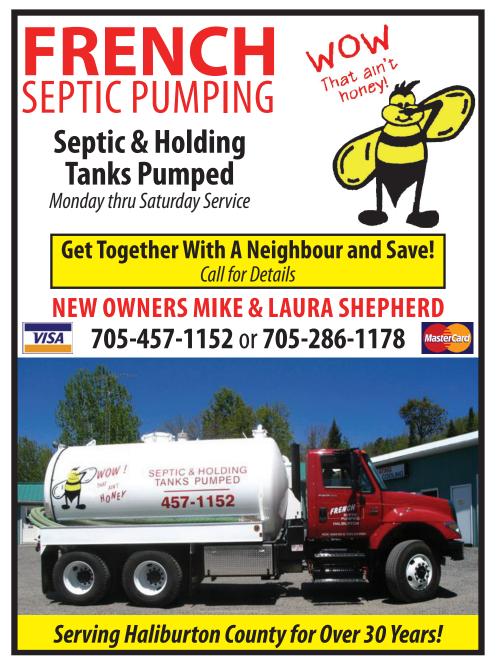


Rotary club rings in Christmas with a party

Clockwise from top left, children and their parents enjoy some free skating at the AJ LaRue arena during the annual Haliburton Rotary Christmas Party on Dec. 4. The event included pizza, live music, a visit from Santa Claus and free gifts for children. Local musical duo The Highwinds, comprised of Alanna Brown and Mike Lindberg, entertain the crowd at the annual Rotary Community Christmas Party on Dec. 4.

Photos by ANGELICA INGRAM



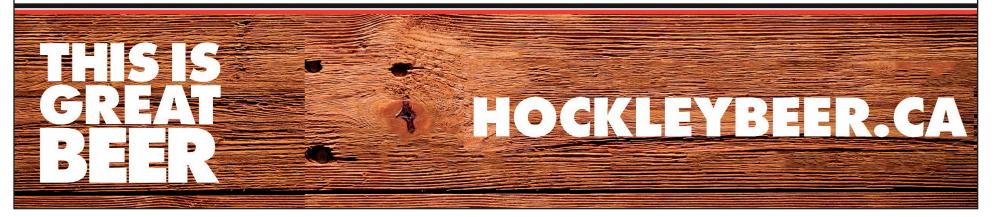


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Drew Rishon 457-2128 x 23

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Boshkung Lake Classic \$389,000



- Very appealing traditional 3 bedroom
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- 4-season cottage/home with fulllength lake view
- 3BR, 2 baths, 150' frontage, deep water
- Year round Municipal Road • Truly stunning property - Must be

Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128 x 33

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- Recently built Guildcrest Home
- Close to Sir Sam's Ski & Bike
 Over 2 acres, private lot
- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, jaccuzzi tub

Erin Nicholls 457-2128 x 34

Big Barnum Lake \$549,000



- Viceroy style cottage w/250' ftq &
- . Open concept, pine vaulted ceilings,
- Master ensuite, walk-in closet & w/o to deck
- 480 sq ft Bunkie, great privacy, no motor lake

Greg Stamp 457-2128 x 28

Little Bob Lake \$139,000



- Looking for a lot to build on... Close to Minden and 2 Hours from GTA
- Year Round Access, Hydro & Phone @ Lot Line
- Gentle Slope from Road to Water Melanie Vigrass 286-2138 x 32

Kushog Lake \$329,000



- 1400 S.F., 3 bdrm, 2 bath home on 2.5A
- 225 ft shoreline across Hwy 35 · Great views from this nicely landscaped property
- . Dock at lakeside and good clean

Dagmar Boettcher 457-5968

Kennisis Lake Road, West Guilford-Commercial \$124,900



- 244.86 ft frontage and 184 ft deep Kennisis Lk RD–West Guilford.Hwv
- Well, Hydro, Had septic approval (expired)
- Level easy to build on Gloria Carnochan 754-1932

Saskatchewan Lake \$189,000



- . Two story home or cottage
- Fully winterized, drilled well
- Great hiking, kayaking, swimming Rental potential, 3 bdrm, FAO

Lee Gauthier 754-1482

Brimming with Character in Minden \$212,000



- Gorgeous eat in kitchen w/island
- Mn flr laundry and oak flooring
 Covered veranda, 3 bdrms full basement Single car garage, view of the river
- and riverwalk

Denise LeBlanc 286-2138 x 23

Beautiful 100 Acre Parcel \$120,000



- Private accessible lot on year round road
- Just 12 minutes to Haliburton · Features two ponds & is teaming
- with wildlife Perfect location to build your dream home or retreat!

Brandon Nimigon 457-2128 x 27

Stormy Lake \$469,000



NEW LISTING

- Year round living just 10 minutes from Haliburton
- Open concept with lots of room for large families
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Kim Stamp 457-2128 x 24

Kushog Lake View \$75,000



- Year round access between Minden and Dorset
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Tom Wilkinson 286-2138 x 25

ready to build!



- · Fronts on Riverside and backs on Dean Crt
- On Municipal Road with Hydro pole on roadside Well treed/good frontage/.88 acre lot
- BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME!!

Janice Brookes 457-2128 x 22

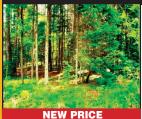
Acreage with Pond \$39,900



- 70 Acres with mixed forest Approx. 900 acres abutting Crown
- Evidence of various wildlife Ideal for Hunt Camp

Mark Dennys 457-2128 x 30

Maebar Vacant Lot \$24,900



- Level 0.54 of an acre lot in a beautiful neighborhood
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 • Close to 12 mile lake, 10 minutes from Minden and 2 hours from

Andrew Hodgson 286-2138 x 29

Brick Bungalow \$334,900



- 3 + 2 bedrooms
- Living room with fireplace Family room with w/o to full length
- · Full finished basement & Double
- attached garage Water access nearby

David Lee 286-2138 x 27

Kashagawigamog Lake \$194,900



- Terrific property, level with sand beach & on a 5 lake chain Cozy two bedroom cottage with lots of charm & lovely view

 Over 400 feet of frontage & 4 acres
- of land in a shared ownership devel-• Development includes playground, spa, billiards room and lots more!

Karen Nimigon 457-2128 x 29

Sunnyside Hilltop Lot \$68,500

NEW LISTING

- Scenic hilltop views over Haliburton
- Village Multi–exposure 1.5 acre resi– dential lot Private setting in area of finer
- homes • Well-maintained Township road -
- Elizabeth Thompson 457-2128 x 52

Commercial Opportunity \$29,500 + HST



- Prime 2 acre property High traffic area near Haliburton
- Commercial Highway zoning Private picturesque setting
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Andrea Wilson 457-2128 x 25



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sports____

Red Hawks host annual invitational

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

At this year's Haliburton Highlands Wrestling Invitational on Thursday, Dec. 10 in Haliburton the Red Hawks were led by Shane O'Reilly and Sonora Plumb, who won their respective divisions.

With 19 Red Hawks competing, the home team had 15 wrestlers finish in the top four.

Although the field was smaller than other years, the competition still boasted 110 wrestlers from Quinte Secondary School, Port Hope, Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute, I.E. Weldon Secondary School, Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute, Norwood District High School and North Hastings High School.

Results

Fourth place: Zanna Zondervan

Third place: Lucas Bortolussi, Aidan Coles, Jackson Gartshore, Cassidy Glecoff, Claire Karaguesian, Emily Klose and Maya Meraw.

Second place: AJ Gillam, Keagan Gillam, Matt Manning, Sonya Flatman and Rebecca Hamilton.

First place: Shane O'Reilly and Sonora Plumb.

With files from Paul Klose





The Red Hawks wrestler Sonya Flatman, who went on to win the match, grapples with Quinte Secondary School's wrestler Olivia Wilson on Thursday, Dec. 10 at the Haliburton Highlands Wrestling Invitational at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Flatman finished second./DARREN LUM Staff



Above, the Red Hawks wrestler Keagan Gillam, who won the match by pin, grapples with North Hastings High School wrestler Adam Aide on Thursday, Dec. 10 at the Haliburton Highlands Wrestling Invitational at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

Left, Hawks wrestler Matt Manning, who went on to win the match. grapples with Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute Spartans wreslter Gavin Christine./DARREN LUM Staff



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Never underestimate the Power of Community Radio



The Red Hawks junior girls' volleyball team finish their pre-game cheer during the Junior West Mixer exhibition tournament on Tuesday at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. The Hawks used the exhibition to build skills. /DARREN LUM Staff



Red Hawks player Sam Steffensen leaps and manages to hit the ball beyond the block of Brock defenders during the Junior West Mixer exhibition tournament on Tuesday at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. The Hawks used the exhibition to build skills. /DARREN LUM Staff

Volleyball team building on tournament experience

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

The Red Hawks girls' junior volleyball team went winless, but gained valuable experience at the Junior West Mixer hosted on Tuesday, Dec. 8 by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary

Coach Sharon Dibblee pointed out the round-robin exhibition tournament that included Kawartha area West schools was more than just about wins and losses.

"The purpose of the tournament was to 'get the jitters out' and have everybody play to see what each player could do in a game," she wrote in an email.

It was a slow start for the team and that is to be expected for a young team, which has only two players with previous high school experience (one being a libero – defensive specialist),

"They settled in and had some excellent serves, some great rallies, and a couple of really good scrambles. We were flat against St. Thomas. The girls were tired and it showed on the court," she said.

Statistically, the Hawks' only success in five two-game matches during the tournament came against Brock, who they beat 25-18.

There were a lot of positives for the team to build on for the future

"It looks promising despite the final results in this tournament," she said. "The tourna-ment gave coach Dan Gimon and myself an opportunity to see where we are now as a team and to see what is possible. We will be better able to target specific situations in practice over the next few days," she said. LCVI and FFSS were the two most successful teams of the tournament winning nine and seven games each out of 10 total games.

Results

IEW: 19-25, 6-25 LCVI: 9-25, 10-25 FFSS: 21-25, 15-25 STA: 21-25, 15-25 Brock: 13-25, 25-18 With files from Sharon Dibblee

Hawks hockey team win two in a row

The following are HHSS sports briefs for the week ending Dec. 11.

On Thursday, the varsity Red Hawks boys' hockey team earned three out of a possible four points in Kawartha High School Hockey League play by defeating the Adam Scott Lions by a score of 3-1 and tying Cobourg 5-5. Strong efforts by centerman Noah Dollo and Jaydon Wood as well as the defensive core of Owen Flood, Ryan Hill, Ethan Keefer, and

Andrew Hall played and important role in the successful double-header.

Strong tourney effort

Congratulations to the Red Hawks junior boys' basketball team for their fantastic effort in the tournament last Friday. The team had leads in the fourth quarter in two out of the three games.

Submitted by Judi Paul

The Red Hawks centreman Noah Dollo looks for an opening against a Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute Spartans defender on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Kawartha High School Hockey League action./DARREN LUM

Events





Spartans cut down Hawks

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

The Red Hawks boys' hockey team is looking forward to their next game after losing to the Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute Spartans on Tuesday at the A.J. aRue Arena in Haliburton

Hawks head coach Ron Yake said his team played well, but just couldn't beat Spartans goalie Chad Callaghan until it was too late.

"The thing was early on in the game we had lots of chances, great pressure, we played very well and their goalie stood on his head. He played very, very well. That gave them confidence and it gives any team confidence when your goalie plays so well like that and it frustrated our guys. It was one of those games where they were wondering if the puck was ever going to go in the net,"

The Hawks had a final chance late in the game.

Down a pair of goals with a little more than a minute the Spartans were assessed a two minute penalty and the Hawks pulled its goalie for a six on four.

Haliburton had pressure, but couldn't score. It was the story of the game for the Hawks, who had trouble finishing on chances.

"Whenever you get to a point you have to pull your goalie you're down. The odds are not for you," Yake

Losing 4-2, the Hawks are now 3-1-1 (adding a win and tie on Thursday) in Kawartha High School Hockey League play. The Spartans got their first win in league Kawartha

He points out the Hawks goalie Cole Finlay, who helped to keep the game within reach, also played

Haliburton United Church Pastoral Charge -

Rev. Harry Morgan

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With Special Christmas Music.

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For more information call 705-457-1891

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Everyone welcome.

in front of their goalie.

Heading into the third period down 4-0, the Hawks showed some character in their effort to attempt a come-

"They didn't lay down and stop playing. They battled back and worked hard and had a lot of good chances. We scored two. We could have four or five in the third period. That's a positive. To not give up. To not lose focus. That was our goal for the third period and I think they accomplished that," he said.

Hawks rookies Jacob Haedicke and Owen Patterson

Smith each had a goal in their home debut.

Smith also assisted on Haedicke's goal.

Haedicke, who spun around and swept a shot past Callaghan, got the first Hawks' goal from a feed from Jaydon Wood at the 10:41 mark.

The Hawks continued to press.

Then Smith scored late with a wrist shot to the roof of the net to narrow the deficit 4-2 at the 3:56 mark of the third.

"It was too little too late. Not enough time on the clock," Yake said.

The Spartans held off the surging Hawks, who not only pulled their goalie for the extra attacker, but also had a powerplay for a six on four advantage with a little more than minute left in the game.

Yake said it's hard to replace the offensively talented

Mat Willbee, who was left with a leg injury a few weeks ago while playing for the Central Ontario Wolves midget team in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association. The Red Hawks centreman has only played one game for the Red Hawks this season.

He has missed one tournament and two league games, but is expected back late-January.

In the third period the home team was incorrectly assessed a two minute penalty kill, which didn't help the Hawks in their desire to come back.

"That was a mistake, but you can't change it. The mistake took place. We were trying to come back and that was a tough penalty you have to deal with when we had to kill a penalty when we shouldn't have had to kill a penalty," he said.

Yake said it should have been a 10-minute misconduct against the Hawks, which doesn't translate to a loss of a player on the ice.

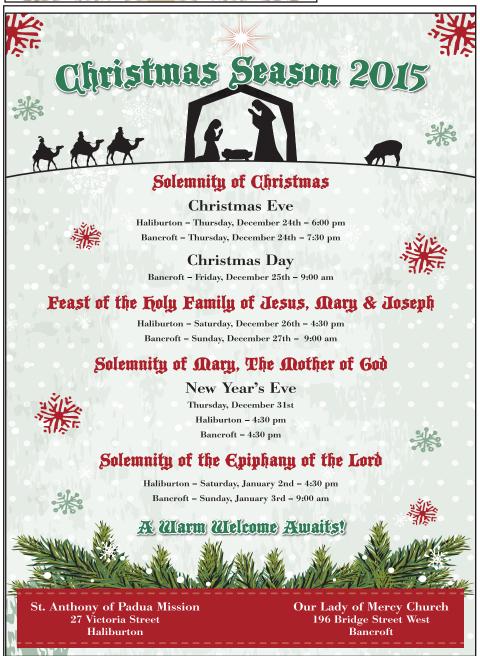
He acknowledges the team did not play well in the second period.

"Our guys played two good periods of hockey. The second period not so good and a little bit undisciplined. Took a couple too many penalties and two out of three periods is ok, but sometimes not good enough," he said.

The team continues to grow and learn.

"We're coming together. We need to just realize we're not going to win every game, but we need to be battling in every game," he said.

The Hawks next home game is against perennial hockey rival St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School on Dec. 17 at the A.J. LaRue Arena. The puck will be dropped at



Storm's Novices survive busy weekend out East

The Timber Mart Novice Highland Storm played five games in three days and although they lost on Friday to start it they finished with a well-earned tie in Parry Sound.

They had a very busy weekend with three games in Huntsville and two games in Parry Sound.

The Timber Mart Novice Highland Storm first game on Friday, Dec. 11 was against the Tillsonburg Tornados. The Storm played very well their first game however they

The first game on Saturday, Dec. 12 was verse the Prince Edward County Kings. This was a well earned win. The Storm played very hard and came out with an awesome win of 4-2.

Goals scored by Graeme Armstrong, Cheyenne Degeer, and Kadin Card.

The second game of Dec. 12 was verse Powasson. The Timber Mart Novice Highland Storm were on fire with a beautiful 6-2 win. Addison Carr scored an amazing four goals, awesome job Addison and Kadin Card scored two. What a great Saturday double header by the Timber Mart Novice Highland Storm.

On Dec. 13 the Timber Mart Novice Highland Storm headed to Parry Sound for their second double header of the weekend.

The first game the two teams fought back and forth on the score board but unfortunately the Storm fell short with a loss of 3-2. Goals scored by Graeme Armstrong and Colby Coumbs.

The second game against the Parry Sound Shamrocks was a battle. Parry Sound scored the first goal and the Storm answered. After that is was fight to keep the puck out of their net and get it into theirs. Storms goalie Aaron Neave made an amazing glove save with two minutes of the third left to keep this game at 1-1 which was the final. Great game Novice Storm.

The Timber Mart Novice Highland Storm host the Bracebridge Bears for a double header in Haliburton on Dec. 19. First game at 11a.m. and the second is at 1 p.m. Submitted by Amber Card

Tyke shutout Muskoka

On Saturday, Dec. 12 the Tom Prentice and Sons/RM Carpentry Highland Storm Tyke team travelled to Port Carling to take on the Muskoka Rock for their second meeting of the season. The Storm worked well as a team, focussing on passing and positioning. They outshot their opponents and dominated play keeping possession of the puck in the Rocks end for most of the game. The Storm went on to defeat the Rock 7-0. Goals were scored by Brady Burtch, Connor Byrne, Brechin Johnston, Jace Mills, MacLean Rowden, and Josh Scheffee. Brady Burtch was named the player of the game for his strong offensive performance. Strong goaltending by Chase Winder led to another shutout for the Storm goalie. Way to go Storm! The team is in action next Saturday at the Centre Hastings tournament in Marmora. By Janice Scheffee

Otters hold Midgets Storm to tie

The Dollo's Foodland and Smolen's Dentistry Highland Storm Midget A team hosted the Huntsville Otters on home ice Friday evening, Dec. 11, in Haliburton. The game began at a frantic pace with good chances being registered by both teams with the Otters opening the scoring six minutes in but the home side tallied back 17 seconds later on a feed from Jon Morrison to Chris Thompson who rushed in alone and slipped it by the goaltender. A flurry of goals ensued with the initial segment ending in a 4-3 lead for the visitors with tallies by Highlanders Paydon Miscio and another by Thompson. The scoring somewhat subsided in the second as a myriad of penalties on both sides had each team focusing on keeping the puck out of the net, but the Storm managed to rack up two more to their opponents one to finish the period knotted at five, the markers by Trevor Turner and Nolan Flood. The third opened with the Otters on a two man power play which the Highlanders valiantly killed and then found themselves on a six-minute power play which the Otters fended off and with good scoring chances being registered by each squad the goaltenders held their ground and the game expired in a 5-5 tie.

Storm next play Friday night at 9:30 a.m. and Saturday at 3 p.m. in Minden. Submitted by Katie and Dave Howe

Peewees shutout in Huntsville

The Walker's and Heating Haliburton Highlands Health Team Peewee AE's travelled to Huntsville this past Saturday to take on the Otters.

The team was very excited to be playing on a full sized rink and played a very competitive first period trailing 1-0. The Storm also did an excellent job short handed late in the first period and a couple of other times throughout the game using penalty killing strategies the coaches had them work on at practice the previous Wednesday. The Otters got their second goal midway through the middle period and opened it up to a 3-0 lead a minute later. Excellent Otter goaltending kept the score at 3-0 going into the final period. The Storm certainly had their opportunities in the final period but the Otter goalie remained solid stopping everything our team threw at him. The Otters added one more on an empty net for a 4-0 win and a well deserved shutout for the home team. Player of the game for the Storm was Ben Robinson who continues to play an excellent defensive game. The Storms last scheduled game before the Christmas break is this Saturday at 2 p.m. versus the South Muskoka Bears. As this is the last game before the holidays, the team is expecting a large fan turnout as friends and family start to gather for the festive season. Merry Christmas from the Peewee AE's!

Submitted by Gord Hoenow

Jets stay on top with win

The Bancroft I.D.A / Canadian Tire Midget B Girls Jets travelled to Ennismore Sunday afternoon to take on the Eagles. The Jets opened the scoring midway through the first period in what proved to be a one-sided result on the score sheet. Jamie Little scored from the point, putting a wrister past the Eagle tender after stepping in from the point, capitalizing off a Sydney Feir dinger off the

Seconds later off the following center ice face-off, Danielle Sunstrum scored what proved to be the game winner putting another wrister past the Ennismore net-minder. Sunstrum added her second tally of the game early in the second period finishing off a Sydney Feir face-off win in the Eagle zone. As the second period ended, Kenndal Marsden put a quick snap shot away off a great giveand-go with Kelsey Maracle deep in the Eagle defensive

In the third period, Katie Funk put the game out of reach with a natural hat-trick midway through the period in a two minute span. Her first of the three was a wrister off a goal-mouth scramble, the second tally was a wrister off a great feed from Sydney Feir deep in the Eagle end and the hat-trick marker was another wrister where Funk capitalized on an Ennismore turnover and put the puck high blocker. Kelsey Maracle added another high blocker tally after deking the Eagle defence late in the third period. Ennismore never gave up and spoiled the Jets shut-out bid with 1:36 left in the game after getting a helpful bounce off the end boards that a waiting Eagle forward quickly fired into the net. The Jets responded with a late goal to finish out the 9-1 lop-sided win as Sydney Feir showed great patience in the Ennismore end and fired another blocker side wrister past the

The win helps keep the Jets in first place in their loop, but they will need to be ready for the second place Cold Creek Comets next Saturday, Dec. 19, when they travel to Brighton to take on the aggressive and physical squad – who they recently defeated in the Peterborough Tourney last weekend. Be ready girls for another solid effort to take on the home-and-home challenge for first place bragging rights.

The Jets' next home game will not be until the New Year, when they will host Cold Creek back in Bancroft on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 3 at 2 p.m. Submitted by Dan Marsden

Islanders tame Wolves

The Haliburton Wolves gave up four goals in the third period to the visiting Parry Sound Islanders and lost 7-4 this past Thursday.

Early in the second period the Wolves went ahead 3-2 on a goal from James Kilgore, but couldn't hold the lead, as the Islanders' Anthony Barnes scored at the 18:17 mark to tie it at 3-3.

The Islanders added three goals in the third before Connor Sikma scored. That was as close as Wolves got. Parry Sound outshot the Wolves 18-9.

Wolves forwards Tanner Hamilton and Ryan Salazar also scored in the loss.

Haliburton will host Bobcaygeon on Thursday, Dec. 17 for the final game before its seasonal break, which ends Jan.3. By Darren Lum

Hawks beat Wildcats in third overtime

Wow. What a game.

It took three overtimes for the Red Hawks boys' basketball team to hold off the visiting I.E. Weldon Secondary School Wildcats, who led by as much as seven points in the fourth with less than three minutes on Monday, Dec.7 in Haliburton.

The crowd of close to 35 at the game were loud and boisterous. They were treated to an unforgettable 50-40 overtime win included several lead changes.

Hawks coach Dave Waito said this come from behind win was great for the team's character, composure and confidence, but is a result of the strong defence he and his coaching staff have been teaching the past few years. "The reason we made that come back in the fourth

quarter was all defence. They couldn't score on the inside of us because ... we were clogging it up. And we finally made some cuts [to the hoop]. We were finishing going to the hoop and we hit our free throws. The free throws were the difference maker in that game," he said.

Waito attributed the team's composure and ability to

execute to their experience of being with the team at least

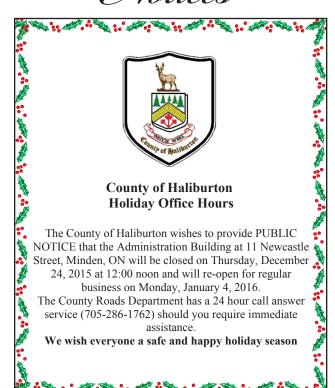
"You're just seeing a veteran team understand the system and understand the purpose behind what we're doing and they're executing it now because they know it inside and out," he said.

He adds beating the Wildcats is a big confidence boost to the team, but it doesn't guarantee a win when Wildcats host the Hawks in the new year.

"A word of warning that these guys will be looking for revenge when we go back and play them in their house in the near year. If we expect to be the same team and roll in their and pick up a "w" it's not going to happen. It's really early in the season," he said.

Bu Darren Lum

Note: see full story in the Dec.10 Minden Times edition.



UPCOMING

Community **Events**

Winter Fun@ Haliburton County Public Library

When: December 19, 2015

Where: Minden Hills Branch 2pm, Stanhope Branch

11am, Dysart Branch 10:30am,

Wilberforce Branch 2pm

Story and craft

Contact: 705-286-2491 Minden Hills Branch, 705-489-2402 Stanhope Branch, 705-457-1791 Dysart Branch, 705-448-2510 Wilberforce Branch or info@ haliburtonlibrary.ca

Haliburton School of The Arts Student Show and Exhibition

When: Saturday December 19, 2015 10am-3:00pm Where: Fleming College, 297 College Drive, Haliburton A show and sale of the works of the 2015 fall graduates of the Haliburton School of the Arts

Contact: Erin Lynch 705-457-1680 or 1-866-353-6464

Christmas Cantata followed by The Sweet Taste of Christmas

When: Sunday December 20th at 7:00pm Where: Minden United Church, 21 Newcastle St.,

Enjoy a musical presentation by the joint choirs of Minden & Zion, followed by delicious desserts, goodies & beverage (by donation). Contact Don 705-286-1305

ESSONVILLE HISTORIC CHURCH - CHRISTMAS SERVICE

When: Sunday, December 20, 7 pm Where: Essonville Historic Church on Essonville Line Celebrating Christmas with music and entertainment.

Free Public Skating

When: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Wednesday December 30, 2015 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Where: Keith Tallman Memorial Arena Details: For more information visit: http://www. highlandseast.ca/article/skating-in-highlands-east

HALIBURTON: Sexual Health Clinic

When: Wednesday, December 23, 10:30 am to Noon. The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

Free public skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon

When: December 30/15 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Where: A.J. LaRue Arena. Haliburton

The Township of Minden Hills Family Fun New Year's Eve

When: Thursday December 31st 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Where: SG Nesbitt Arena

This is a free event for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult) that includes public skating, hot chocolate, tobogganing.

Contact: Elisha Weiss 705-286-2298 or eweiss@

New Years Eve Celebrations

When: Thursday, December 31, 2015 Where: Wilberforce Legion, Wilberforce

Free public skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon

When: January 2/16 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Where: S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, Minden

130 children enjoy Wilberforce parade and festivities

community news

wilberforce

Hilda Clark _448-2018

Christmas is fast approaching. There have been many opportunities in this area to take part in seasonal events and activities. The Wilberforce Heritage Guild, which operates the Outpost Museum, appreciates the participation of vendors and shoppers at the Dec. 6 craft sale at the Lloyd Watson Centre. A good variety of items pleased shoppers. Baked goods were popular. St. Margaret's Church people offered a well received lunch menu

By the next evening, Dec. 7, the LWMC had been transformed into a concert hall. A large crowd participated in the Ecumenical Christmas Carol Service as the hall came alive with the Christmas story through word and music.

Led by Rev. Peter Walford-Davis and Cheryl Cohoon, many participated: Marg Dugas (piano), Northern Jam Band, a special adult choir, Gerard Mumford (singer/guitar), the Full Gospel Children's choir and Reg Cox with violin. Readers included Flo Elliott, Charles Hughes, Wayne Rutter, Joan Noble, Father Ron Meyer, Hilds Clark and Born Barr, And the sumprise visitor, was Hilda Clark, and Ron Barr. And the surprise visitor – was he St. Nicholas or Santa Claus or maybe David Watson?

This community concert came to an end with Grace a special girl first playing a verse of *Silent Night* on her harp and then accompanying as the softly sang that spe-

Thanks to the United Church people for bringing this concert to our community hall and to all who took part.

Celebrations continued into last week.

The annual Christmas Open House was held at the Outpost Historic House Museum on Dec. 10. Old friends and first time visitors enjoyed the natural boughs and tree along with hot apple cider and sweets both after-

noon and evening.

More celebrations on Dec. 10: St. Margaret's Anglican Church celebrated its 95th anniversary with a 5 p.m.

evening service led by the Reverend Canon Anne Moore.

Music included Advent hymns such as *People, Look* East. Many from St. George's choir, Bill Gliddon and Judy Cole, organists and keyboard players, Mark Bramham trumpet player, Nigel Hollings soloist, Luba Cargill violin all contributed so much that brought joy to this special service celebrating 95 years of worship and serving the community. This evening service was special also because for many of the early years there the services were always in the evening.

Many stayed to enjoy a meal together. Thanks to all who were part of the service. And to Leo and Yvonne Morello and all who prepared and presented the super supper a big cheer.

Members of county writers' groups enjoyed lunch at

the Pinestone Resort recently.

Kay Finlay and I enjoyed a Christmas noon meal with other retired teachers at the Bancroft Curling Club last week. Kay and I both taught in Bancroft way, way back in the 1950s and later in other schools in other areas. Nice to see old friends.

And thanks for a Christmas lunch at the Echo office recently. Nice to meet regulars and other freelancers.

Santa Claus always comes through snow, sun or rain. He arrived in Wilberforce on a wet Sunday afternoon, Dec. 13. And what a crowd of young and old were delighted to visit with him and to have pictures taken. Each child received a gift. By mid afternoon more than 130 children were accounted for. Wow. Activity centres, food and drinks were all welcome.

Thanks to all who organize and staff this special event for the kids and their families. What a great welcome to

The Wilberforce School Concert is on at the LWMC Thursday Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18 is last day of school before the two weeks of holidays.

The Essonville Historic Church holds its annual Carol

Service on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. The Harcourt Chapel's Carol service is at 11 a.m. Dec.

St. Margaret's Service of Lessons and Carols is at 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20. We hear that Grace will be there to play her harp.

Certainly a busy community.

100 Mile Reads: Tenderness/Whirlabout/The Healer

In this series of short stories by J. Michael Fay, formative life events are explored against the backdrop of the early 20th century.

In Tenderness two cousins are reunited under tragic circumstance, finding solace in their shared heritage.

In Whirlabout young Danny reflects on the lessons he learned from his father as a boy, and the heroic moment

in which those lessons were applied.

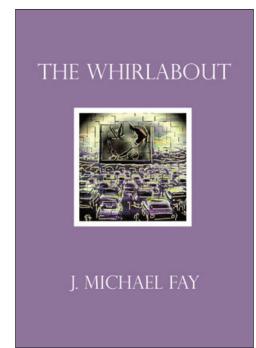
In *The Healer* Danny comes down with rheumatic fever and from his hospital bed in the children's ward copes with his illness and becoming the "big boy" that the

nurses keep telling him to be.

Tenderness, The Whirlabout, and The Healer are by local author J. Michael Fay, with cover art by local artist Karen Sloan. They are available at the Haliburton County Public Library in ebook format on Overdrive.

Library News

Holiday Hours are here! All branches will be closed Dec. 24 – 26 and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Our Dorset branch will also be closed Dec. 29 and 30. Our administration centre will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 3. For our complete hours – including new hours for 2016 – please visit our website at www.haliburtonlibrary.ca



Whirlabout is the story of young Danny reflecting on the lessons learned from his father and the heroic moment those lessons must be used. By local author Michael Fay.

Library warns of service disruptions

As a result of maintenance on Haliburton County Public Library's database and website, there will be some minor service interruptions starting Dec. 14 and ending

During this time the following services will be unavail-

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The library apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and thanks you for your patience.

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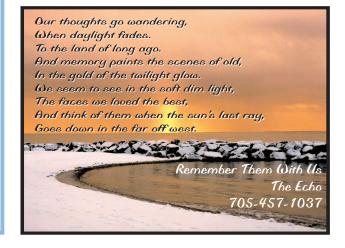
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650 OBITUARIES

Watson, Nancy Selina Vera

At Wingham & District Hospital on Thursday, December 10, 2015,

Mrs. Nancy Watson of Auburn and formerly of Haliburton, age 66 years. Beloved wife of the late James Watson. Cherished mother of Marke Chaffe, Michelle Watson & Bill McAllister, David Watson & Chantelle McKnight and Donald & Regan Bint. Loving grand-mother of 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Sister of Carol & Larry, Pam & Don and Matt & Christine. Sister-in-law of Marilyn Crane. Predeceased by her s Harold & Eleanor Crane and by her b

Syd Crane. Nancy was active with the Girl Guides of Canada for approximately 40 years.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date in Haliburton. Memorial donations to Canadian Cancer Society or Girl Guides Canada would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy and may be placed through McBurney Funeral Home, Wingham, 519-357-1170.

> Online condolences at www.mcburneyfuneralhome.com

650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of

Michael "Mike" John Jackson

Passed away suddenly on Wednesday, December 9, 2015. In his 70th year.

Loving father of Jessica Jackson and devoted son of Jean and the late J.O. Jackson. Lovingly remembered by his family Bev Jackson, Estella Burch,

Kim and Robert Prescott, Shane Burch and by his close companion Wanda Reynolds and her family. Brother of William "Bill" Jackson, Judy and Joe Findeis. Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Monday from 2-4 and 7-9 pm . Then to St. Paul's Anglican Church, 19 Invergordon Ave., Minden on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 for a Service to Celebrate Mike's Life at 11:00 am. Cremation

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Minden Health Care Auxiliary or to the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com





Community pitches in

Aggie Tose, organizer of the Home Builders' toy drive, received a huge array of toys delivered to her office in Haliburton from Kennisis Lake's Bottle Drive by Larry Everitt and W. Everitt. It was made possible with the help of Clay Glecoff at V & S Haliburton, Haliburton Beer Store and Bill's West Guilford Store. Submitted

Bain remembered by friends, family

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper

Much of the community and especially the Bain connection have been offering sympathy in the passing of Ruth Bain last week. Ruth and Clarence Bain raised their family in their place on Pine Lake in West Guilford. They supported the Baptist Church here, and contributed to the growth of the community. Marge Bain, sister-in-law of Ruth received together the honourable award one year as Citizen of the Year at the July 1 celebration as both worked tirelessly as volunteers at community events and for their beloved church. The Rev. Brian Plouffe led the service at the Haliburton Funeral Home. The crowd filled the whole seating area and attended the fine reception at the Community Centre after the service. Thanks to all who contributed the delicious food for the occasion.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, the Baptist Church hosted a turkey dinner and program of Christmas music for the 105 people who happily paid for the pleasure of the good, good meal and entertainment.

On Sunday, a mini Christmas pageant is being presented at the beginning of the service using the talents of the youngest of the congregation.

Euchre Scores

High: Liz Jesseman and Grenville Griffin Low: Parry Morrison and Kallee McKay Most Lone Hands: Brian Pfrimmer and Sandy Poulton Specials: Neil Moore and Lesley Thatcher



BMO customers give back

For more than a decade, BMO in Haliburton has been collecting Canadian Tire money around the holidays to give to charity. This year, they expanded that effort to include toys. Customers were asked to take a ball off the Christmas tree and return with a gift for kids. Between those toys and the help of community partners, BMO was able to donate \$500 in gifts to the 4Cs. Pictured: Nelly Ashworth, Kendra Wilson, Richard Wannan, Julie MacInnes and Ashlee Casey. JENN WATT Staff



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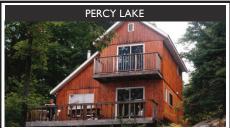


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Level lot, sun all day. Sand shoreline. Spacious 4 season 3BR, 4pc cottage. Spacious. Screen porch. Close to Haliburton. \$269,900





2BR with so much warmth & character. Very well maintained,



Neat & tidy 2BR home in forested country location. Close to lakes & village. Level lot, gardens, huge 40x70 garage, great for a contractor.

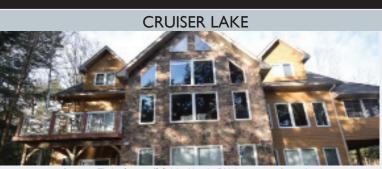
Affordable opportunity for a rental property. 2 cottages on level lot near sand beach. 1 cott is winterized. Use one, rent one. Drilled well, septic. Great value

Building Lots

Industrial Park Rd, 1.1 Ac, 2400 sf frame bldg	\$109,000
Glebe Road Lot, 2 Acres	\$59,500
Angel Road Ski Area Lot	\$32,500
Little Hawk Lake Road, I Acre Lot	\$24,500
Trapper's Trail Lot 101' frontage	\$6,900
Hwy 503, 1.7 Acre Lot	\$15,000



Fine Homes e3 Luxury Properties



4 season Timberframe w/3 finished levels. Dbl det garage w/upper level. Luxury & comfort on peaceful Cruiser Lake near Kennisis. Must be seen. \$899,000



Spacious open concept cottage or home. Unique man-made coral fireplace. High quality custom kitchen Cozy lower level family room with walkout. Dbl det garage. Big lake view. \$797,000



Spacious turn-key 4 season property. Peaceful & private, 216 ft frontage. S/W exposure. Over 3000sf finished, double garage, quality finishings & features. Must see! \$599.900